

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Cancelled)
2. (Cancelled)
3. (Cancelled)
4. (Cancelled)
5. (Cancelled)
6. (Cancelled)
7. (Cancelled)
8. (Cancelled)
9. (Cancelled)
10. (Cancelled)
11. (Cancelled)
12. (Cancelled)
13. (Cancelled)
14. (Cancelled)

15. (New) A thin plate storage container comprising:

a container body with an interior for storing a plurality of thin plates in a clean condition, said container body including four side walls extending to a flange surrounding an opening for insertion and removal of the thin plates, said flange including four corner portions, four planar edge surfaces connecting and integral with the four corner portions and a shoulder portion spaced from said opening by said planar

edge surfaces;

lid support inserts on at least one of said planar edge surfaces, said lid support inserts each providing a narrow contact surface;

a lid for closing and sealing the interior of the container;

a plurality of lid edge inserts, each of said lid edge inserts covering only a portion of a peripheral edge of the lid and presenting a planar contact surface for contacting the narrow contact surface of one lid support insert; and

wherein said lid edge inserts and said lid support inserts are formed of materials which generate minimal dust when brought into frictional contact with each other.

16. (New) The thin plate storage container according to claim 15 wherein each of said lid support inserts is fitted within a groove in a planar edge surface and protrudes from a planar edge surface toward the interior of the container body.

17. (New) The thin plate storage container according to claim 16 wherein each of said lid support inserts includes a central protrusion in the form of a ridge and planar surfaces flanking the ridge, the ridge presenting the narrow contact surface.

18. (New) The thin plate storage container according to claim 16 wherein each of the four planar edge surfaces has a groove adjacent each of the corner portions joined thereby and a lid support insert mounted in each of the grooves.

19. (New) The thin plate storage container according to claim 18 wherein each of the lid

edge inserts is a corner insert including a surface with a curved portion and planar surface portions integral with and on each side of the curved portion, the planar surface portions respectively contacting lid edge inserts respectively fitted in grooves in different planar edge surfaces.

20. (New) The thin plate storage container according to claim 16, wherein each of the lid support inserts has a protruding dovetail, wherein each of the grooves is a dovetail groove mating with the protruding dovetail, and wherein the narrow contact surfaces are planar.

21. (New) The thin plate storage container according to claim 15, wherein each lid edge insert comprises a fixing plate portion inserted into and fixed in an engagement groove at a corner of the periphery of the lid, and a contacting plate portion held by the fixing plate and curved to cover the corner of the lid, and wherein an outer surface portion of the contacting plate portion is flat for contact with a lid edge insert.